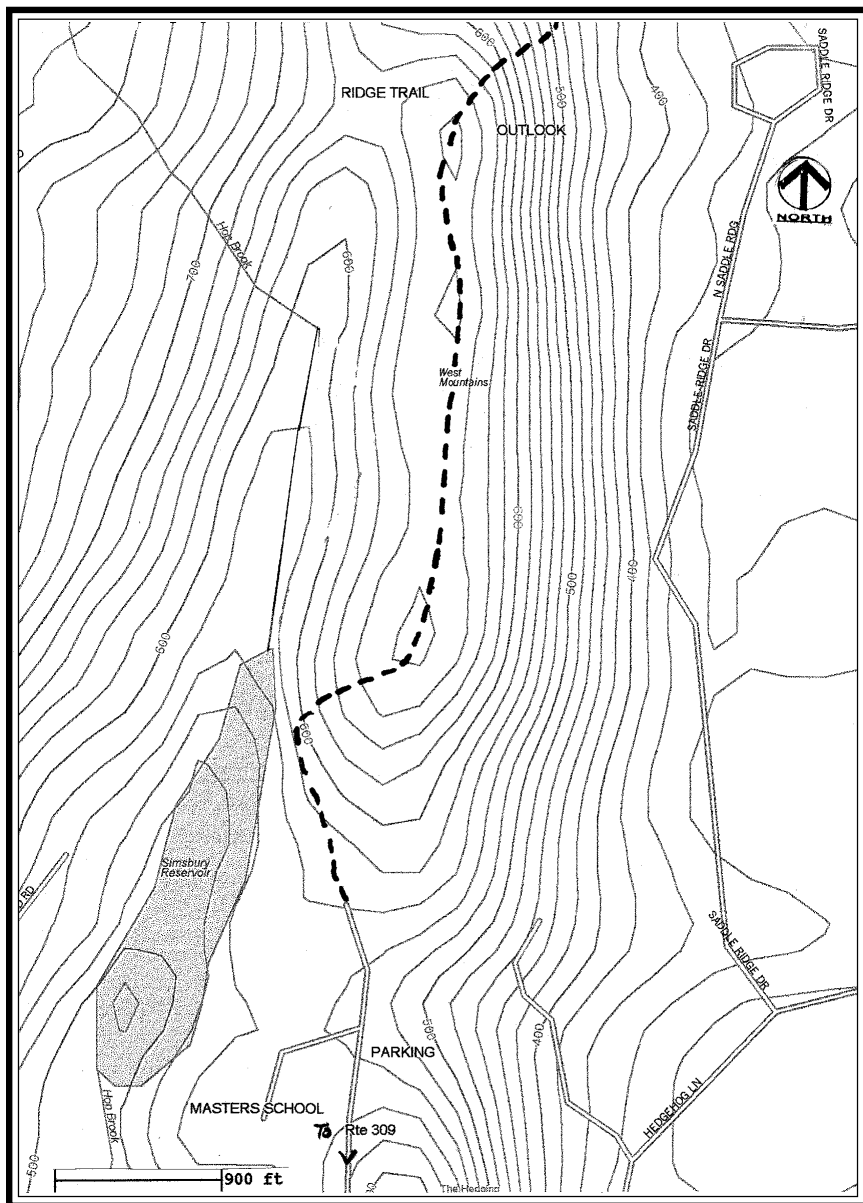


HEDGEHOG TRAIL



HEDGEHOG TRAIL

The Hedgehog Trail starts at the Masters School and runs through land owned and protected by the Simsbury Land Trust. The trail is relatively easy, with a few steep grades as it follows the ridgeline to a beautiful outlook.

Visitors can reach the school via a long driveway off Westledge Rd. (Route 309) just west of Hedgehog Lane. Park in the large lot and walk north along the dirt road continuing straight along the wood road as it branches.

Follow the blue blazes along the gently sloping wood road, with the ridge on the right for about one half mile until the trail turns abruptly right and climbs through a talus field. Land Trust land begins at the top of the ridge. The trail passes through thickets of Mountain Laurel and some wild blueberry bushes under a canopy of mainly oak. At 1.3 miles the trail emerges onto a rock outcrop owned by the Town of Simsbury.

The peak offers a 360 degree panorama. To the north are the Barndoor Hills, McLean Game Refuge, and Mt. Tom in Massachusetts. To the east and southeast across the valley are Bradley Airport, Penwood State Park, Talcott Mountain, and the Heublein Tower. Great Pond State Forest and a large wetland are visible in the Valley. Back to the south and west are the Simsbury Reservoir and the hills of Canton. Sometimes Canada Geese can be heard in the reservoir. It is common to see Red Tailed Hawks floating on the thermals and in the fall to see large flocks of Cedar Waxwings feeding on juniper berries along the cliffs.

